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10/530,594	05/19/2005	Daniel Lecomte	27592-01111-US	7637
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**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

### Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/530,594

**Applicant(s)**

LECOMTE ET AL.

**Examiner**

JEFFREY D. POPHAM

**Art Unit**

2437

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 May 2010.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 43-69 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 43-69 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 April 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SI.08)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- 5) ☐ Notice of Interval Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_

***Remarks***

Claims 43-69 are pending.

It is noted that claim 43 is stated as being "Previously Presented". However, claim 43 does have an amendment which has been considered below. It appears as though this was merely an unintentional error as the rest of the amended claims are properly identified as "Currently Amended".

***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 5/12/2010 has been entered.

***Response to Arguments***

2. Applicant's arguments filed 5/12/2010 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues, with respect to Kalra, that "These figures and descriptions make it clear that the format of the original stream is *not* preserved in the base stream. For example, col. 9, lines 26-28 state, "After step 154, step 156 occurs and an adaptive stream slice start code is written which is derived from an MPEG slice start code." Another example is also found at col. 9, lines

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38-39: "At the end of the slice, step 162 follows and a memory allocation for a write correction code is inserted." While this may be one embodiment of Kalra made with respect to MPEG picture data, this is not limiting on the entirety of the invention. It is noted that column 9 was not cited in the rejections. It is further noted that, even if additional information is added to the stream, this does not mean that the format is not preserved. Looking to claim 43, the claim clearly and explicitly states that "the modified stream is distorted with respect to the original audio stream" (emphasis added). Therefore, the modified stream cannot be the same as the original stream, but must have some of the data therein modified. If Applicant is arguing that the amendment stating that "a format of the modified stream corresponds to a format into which the audio blocks are organized in the original audio stream" means that no data can be removed or added, then clearly the data therein cannot be modified, as called for in the same limitation ("modifying at least one encoded value..."). As one of skill in the art will readily realize, in order to modify data within a stream, the data must be changed. If this modification is substitution, for example, then the original data will be removed and the data to be substituted will be added to the stream. If the modification is removal of data, then removal occurs. If the modification is addition of data, then data will be added to the stream. That is to say, any modification will change the stream such that the stream is no longer the same.

With respect to the limitation that "a format of the modified stream corresponds to a format into which the audio blocks are organized in the original audio stream", this is found in the combination of references. As discussed in the

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previous rejections, Kalra does not explicitly disclose that the audio stream is encoded into audio blocks. However, Buxton discloses such an audio stream being encoded into audio blocks. Kalra does teach that the format of the modified stream corresponds to a format of the original stream, however. As an example, when the original stream contains various channels and the base stream of Kalra will be a mono channel, the format of the base stream is the same as the format of the original stream in that the data of this channel has not changed, although the stream overall has been modified so as to remove the other channels for placement in additive streams. As described in Kalra, audio formats may be MPEG, WAV, or AIFF, as examples. When the mono channel is in the base stream, it will still be encoded in the same MPEG, WAV, or AIFF format. Clearly, this is a format of the modified stream that corresponds to a format of the original stream. The mere removal of the other channels does not change this format in any way. The base stream will be organized in precisely the same manner as the original stream, since the same audio format is being used. The base stream is distorted with respect to the original stream of course, as values within the stream have been modified. However, this is no deterrent to having a corresponding format, as the claims call for such a distortion via modification.

With respect to the block aspects, however, Buxton teaches such. Buxton teaches that the audio stream may be a stream of audio samples, clips, tracks, etc., for example. Furthermore, once the stream is distorted and at least one block (e.g. sample, clip, track) has been modified (e.g. by replacing profanity with

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a bird noise), the stream is still in the same format as before. The blocks are organized in the same fashion after the mask has been applied as prior to the mask being applied. Therefore, the combination clearly teaches that "a format of the modified stream corresponds to a format into which the audio blocks are organized in the original audio stream".

Applicant argues that Kalra fails to disclose or suggest "wherein the modified stream is distorted with respect to the original audio stream by modifying at least one encoded value of an audio block of the original audio stream." However, as Applicant argued just prior to this argument, Kalra teaches modifying the information "at least to insert further information". Clearly, inserting additional information to the audio stream comprises modifying at least one encoded value of the audio stream. Furthermore, Kalra discusses that "audio is also transmitted by the stream management module based upon profile characteristics selected by the user, such as whether mono or stereo sound that is oversampled or not is desired." (Column 4, lines 56-59). Clearly, removal of a channel to provide mono sound modifies at least one encoded value of the stream by removing it. Furthermore, oversampling also clearly modifies at least one encoded value of the stream by modifying it.

Applicant argues that "Buxton merely discusses "at the moment" determination of what rights a user may have. Merely teaching that one may determine whether a user has access rights has no nexus to placing information about such determination into a user profile". It is noted that Applicant provides no mention of Kalra with respect to a user profile, even though Kalra was cited as

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teaching accessing a data profile and determining, based on the profile, the information to be transmitted to the target equipment (in claim 44, from which claim 47 depends). Clearly, Kalra teaches the profile that includes information used in making such a determination. Therefore, in the Kalra-Buxton combination, data that is used in making the determination of information to be transmitted to target equipment is within the profile of Kalra.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 43-47, 49, 53, 56, 57, 63-66, and 69 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kalra (U.S. Patent 5,953,506) in view of Buxton (U.S. Patent 6,937,730).

Regarding Claim 43,

Kalra discloses a method of transmitting audio information, the method comprising:

Modifying an original audio stream having audio information encoded into encoded values into a modified stream and complementary information, wherein a format of the modified stream corresponds to a format of the original audio stream,

wherein the modified stream is distorted with respect to the original audio stream by modifying at least one encoded value of the original audio stream, and wherein the complementary information provides information to permit a decoder to reconstitute the original audio stream from the modified stream (Abstract; Column 1, line 66 to Column 2, line 49; Column 3, line 66 to Column 4, line 32; and Column 5, lines 25-29; converting the original stream into a base stream and additive streams for scalable media delivery, for example);

Transmitting the modified stream to the target equipment (Column 4, lines 14-46; transmitting selected streams, including the base stream, to the device, for example); and

Transmitting at least a subset of the complementary information to the target equipment (Column 4, lines 14-46; and Column 5, lines 25-29; transmitting selected streams, including additional streams, to the device, for example);

But does not explicitly disclose that the audio stream is encoded into audio blocks that include the one or more encoded values, that the modifying is performed on at least one encoded value of an audio block, or that the format is a format into which the audio blocks are organized.

Buxton, however, discloses that the audio stream is encoded into audio blocks that include the one or more encoded values; that



the modifying is performed on at least one encoded value of an audio block; and that a format of the modified stream corresponds to a format into which the audio blocks are organized in the original audio stream (Abstract; Column 3, lines 3-20; and Column 3, line 55 to Column 4, line 18; the audio content including a stream of audio samples, clips, or tracks, for example, such samples/clips/tracks corresponding to encoded audio blocks, where the modified stream has a corresponding format with respect to sample/clip/track organization as the original stream). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to incorporate the conditional access system of Buxton into the scalable media delivery system of Kalra in order to provide different levels of masking to the content, such that a user must be authenticated and/or authorized for an appropriate level before the content associated with that level may be revealed, thereby concealing objectionable content from users that should not be allowed to access such objectionable content.

Regarding Claim 56,

Claim 56 is a system claim that corresponds to method claim 43 and is rejected for the same reasons.

Regarding Claim 44,

Kalra as modified by Buxton discloses the method of claim 43, in addition, Kalra discloses that transmitting at least a subset of

the complementary information to the target equipment comprises accessing a data profile of the target equipment; and determining, based on the data profile, the subset of the complementary information to be transmitted to the target equipment (Abstract; Column 1, line 66 to Column 2, line 49; and Column 3, line 66 to Column 4, line 59).

Regarding Claim 57,

Claim 57 is a system claim that corresponds to method claim 44 and is rejected for the same reasons.

Regarding Claim 45,

Kalra as modified by Buxton discloses the method of claim 44, in addition, Kalra discloses that accessing a data profile includes accessing a data profile that comprises at least one component that relates to the target equipment and that is selected from the group consisting of payment data, preferences, environment, habits, and characteristics (Column 4, lines 47-59).

Regarding Claim 46,

Kalra as modified by Buxton discloses the method of claim 44, in addition, Kalra discloses that accessing a data profile comprises accessing at least a portion of the data profile that is retrieved from the target equipment (Column 16, lines 18-28).

Regarding Claim 47,

Kalra as modified by Buxton discloses the method of claim 44, in addition, Buxton discloses that accessing a data profile includes accessing a data profile that includes an indication of rights of a user to access content of the original audio stream (Column 3, lines 21-50; Column 5, line 17 to Column 6, line 43; and Column 8, lines 23-47; showing different ways of transmitting the data depending on characteristics of the receiver, authenticated user identification, and whether the channel is trusted or not (the combination of which defines the profile of the device, user, and channel). The distributor may send only CAMA data (content after mask applied), which corresponds to the modified stream or CAMA data along with an encrypted masked content and knowledge of how to reverse the masking, for example, depending on the profile of the user/device).

Regarding Claim 49,

Kalra as modified by Buxton discloses the method of claim 43, in addition, Kalra discloses that transmitting the modified stream and transmitting at least a subset of the complementary information utilize a common transmission medium (Column 4, lines 14-59; and Column 5, lines 25-29).

Regarding Claim 53,

Kalra as modified by Buxton discloses the method of claim 43, in addition, Kalra discloses reconstituting, at the target

equipment, an audio stream using the modified stream and at least a subset of the complementary information (Column 4, lines 14-46).

Regarding Claim 63,

Kalra as modified by Buxton discloses the system of claim 56, in addition, Kalra discloses that the audio information server further comprises at least one output buffer memory coupled to receive at least the modified stream from the analysis system (Figures 13-14; and Column 4, lines 14-59).

Regarding Claim 64,

Kalra discloses an apparatus for receiving transmitted audio information, comprising:

A synthesis system configured to receive a modified stream and at least a subset of a set of complementary information, wherein the modified stream and the complementary information are derived from an original audio stream having audio information encoded into encoded values, and configured to synthesize a reconstituted audio stream, wherein a format of the modified stream corresponds to a format of the original audio stream, wherein the modified stream is distorted with respect to the original audio stream by modifying at least one encoded value of the original stream, and wherein the complementary information provides information to permit a decoder to reconstitute the original audio stream from the modified stream (Abstract; Figures 12-14; Column

1, line 66 to Column 2, line 49; Column 3, line 66 to Column 4, line 59; Column 14, line 61 to Column 15, line 32; and Column 15, line 66 to Column 17, line 17); and

At least one item selected from the group consisting of a memory device, a playback device, and means for physically coupling to a communication network (Abstract; Figure 2A; and Column 4, lines 14-32; the coupling between the server/stream management module to the user's multimedia device, for example);

But does not explicitly disclose that the audio stream is encoded into audio blocks that include the one or more encoded values; that the modifying is performed on at least one encoded value of an audio block, or that the format is a format into which the audio blocks are organized.

Buxton, however, discloses that the audio stream is encoded into audio blocks that include the one or more encoded values; that the modifying is performed on at least one encoded value of an audio block; and that a format of the modified stream corresponds to a format into which the audio blocks are organized in the original audio stream (Abstract; Column 3, lines 3-20; and Column 3, line 55 to Column 4, line 18). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to incorporate the conditional access system of Buxton into the scalable media delivery system of Kalra in order to provide different

levels of masking to the content, such that a user must be authenticated and/or authorized for an appropriate level before the content associated with that level may be revealed, thereby concealing objectionable content from users that should not be allowed to access such objectionable content.

Regarding Claim 65,

Kalra as modified by Buxton discloses the apparatus of claim 64, in addition, Kalra discloses that the at least one item selected from the group includes the playback device, and wherein the playback device is coupled to the synthesis system to receive the reconstituted audio stream and to play corresponding audio on a listening device (Column 1, line 66 to Column 2, line 49; Column 3, line 66 to Column 4, line 59; and Column 15, line 51 to Column 16, line 17).

Regarding Claim 66,

Kalra as modified by Buxton discloses the apparatus of claim 64, in addition, Kalra discloses that the at least one item selected from the group includes the memory device, and wherein the memory device comprises at least one buffer memory to receive and store the modified stream or the received at least a subset of the set of complementary information, wherein the at least one buffer memory is coupled to the synthesis system (Figure 24; and Column 24, line 50 to Column 25, line 6).

Regarding Claim 69,

Kalra as modified by Buxton discloses the apparatus of claim 64, in addition, Kalra discloses that the complementary information includes at least one function to be used by the synthesis system to synthesize the reconstituted audio stream from the modified stream and the at least a subset of the complementary information (Abstract; Column 1, line 66 to Column 2, line 49; and Column 3, line 66 to Column 4, line 59).

4. Claims 48, 50-52, 58, and 59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kalra in view of Buxton, further in view of Saunders (U.S. Patent 7,290,057).

Regarding Claim 48,

Kalra as modified by Buxton does not explicitly disclose that transmitting the modified stream comprises storing the modified stream on a physical storage medium.

Saunders, however, discloses that transmitting the modified stream comprises storing the modified stream on a physical storage medium (Column 15, lines 20-31). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to incorporate the media delivery system of Saunders into the scalable media delivery system of Kalra as modified by Buxton in order to allow the system to distribute different portions of a stream

via different communication means, provide additional scalability factors, such as language, and/or only allow usage of content to authorized entities.

Regarding Claim 58,

Claim 58 is a system claim that corresponds to method claim 48 and is rejected for the same reasons.

Regarding Claim 50,

Kalra as modified by Buxton does not explicitly disclose that transmitting the modified stream and transmitting at least a subset of the complementary information utilize separate transmission media.

Saunders, however, discloses that transmitting the modified stream and transmitting at least a subset of the complementary information utilize separate transmission media (Column 4, lines 42-62; Column 6, lines 28-55; and Column 13, lines 20-50). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to incorporate the media delivery system of Saunders into the scalable media delivery system of Kalra as modified by Buxton in order to allow the system to distribute different portions of a stream via different communication means, provide additional scalability factors, such as language, and/or only allow usage of content to authorized entities.

Regarding Claim 51,



Kalra as modified by Buxton does not explicitly disclose that transmitting at least a subset of the complementary information utilizes a transmission medium different from that used for transmitting the modified stream.

Saunders, however, discloses that transmitting at least a subset of the complementary information utilizes a transmission medium different from that used for transmitting the modified stream (Column 4, lines 42-62; Column 6, lines 28-55; and Column 13, lines 20-50). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to incorporate the media delivery system of Saunders into the scalable media delivery system of Kalra as modified by Buxton in order to allow the system to distribute different portions of a stream via different communication means, provide additional scalability factors, such as language, and/or only allow usage of content to authorized entities.

Regarding Claim 52,

Kalra as modified by Buxton and Saunders discloses the method of claim 51, in addition, Saunders discloses that the transmission medium utilized for transmitting at least a subset of the complementary information is selected from the group consisting of an analog telephone line, a digital telephone line, a digital subscriber line, a local radio loop, a digital audio

broadcasting channel, a commutated telephone network, and a wireless digital telecommunication network (Column 19, lines 12-40).

Regarding Claim 59,

Claim 59 is a system claim that is broader than method claim 52 and is rejected for the same reasons.

5. Claims 54 and 60 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kalra in view of Buxton, further in view of Blackketter (U.S. Patent 6,938,270).

Regarding Claim 54,

Kalra as modified by Buxton does not explicitly disclose that transmitting at least a subset of the complementary information includes transmitting at least one function to be used by the target equipment to reconstitute an audio stream from the modified stream and the at least a subset of the complementary information.

Blackketter, however, discloses that transmitting at least a subset of the complementary information includes transmitting at least one function to be used by the target equipment to reconstitute an audio stream from the modified stream and the at least a subset of the complementary information (Abstract). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to incorporate the script trigger system

of Blacketter into the scalable media delivery system of Kalra as modified by Buxton in order to allow for interaction between an information resource and a user, provide a user with relevant information concerning the user's interests, and/or allow the system to keep such information up to date without the need to connect to the Internet or wait for the selected channel to deliver the latest information.

Regarding Claim 60,

Claim 60 is a system claim that corresponds to method claim 54 and is rejected for the same reasons.

6. Claims 55 and 61 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kalra in view of Buxton, further in view of Bantz (U.S. Patent 6,807,542).

Regarding Claim 55,

Kalra as modified by Buxton discloses the method of claim 43, in addition, Kalra discloses that transmitting at least a subset of the complementary information comprises transmitting all of the complementary information to the target equipment (Figures 15B2A-12B2D, 8/8 column; and Column 16, line 49 to Column 17, line 60; showing transmission of all additive streams; although one of ordinary skill in the art would understand that this could occur at the start of transmission, it does not appear to be explicitly recited);

and decreasing, over time, the amount of complementary information being transmitted to the target equipment (Column 25, lines 7-22; showing reduction of detail of transmitted data, which would result in the decrease of additive streams being sent); but does not explicitly disclose initiating communication of the information by transmitting all of the complementary information.

Bantz, however, discloses initially transmitting all of the complementary information to the target equipment (Column 3, lines 46-51; providing maximum service level, corresponding to all complementary information, for a limited period of time); and

Decreasing, over time, the amount of complementary information being transmitted to the target equipment (Column 3, line 66 to Column 4, line 11; gradually reducing the user's rights and, thus the amount of complementary information, over time). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to incorporate the selective and quantitative rights management system of Bantz into the scalable media delivery system of Kalra as modified by Buxton in order to entice a user to renew or purchase a service or piece of data by gradually decreasing the quality of data that the user receives until such purchase or renewal is provided.

Regarding Claim 61,

Claim 61 is a system claim that corresponds to method claim 55 and is rejected for the same reasons.

7. Claim 62 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kalra in view of Buxton, further in view of DeLeon (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0064285).

Kalra as modified by Buxton does not explicitly disclose an audio coder, coupled to the audio information server, and configured to accept an analog audio stream and to convert the analog audio stream to a digital audio stream to be used by the audio information server as the original audio stream.

DeLeon, however, discloses an audio coder, coupled to the audio information server, and configured to accept an analog audio stream and to convert the analog audio stream to a digital audio stream to be used by the audio information server as the original audio stream (Abstract; and Paragraphs 23 and 32). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to incorporate the analog/digital conversion system of DeLeon into the scalable media delivery system of Kalra as modified by Buxton in order to allow the system to transmit media in a digital and compressed format, even if the input media is analog, thereby providing high quality audio while conserving bandwidth.

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8. Claims 67 and 68 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kalra in view of Buxton, further in view of Yoon (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0061239).

Regarding Claim 67,

Kalra as modified by Buxton does not explicitly disclose means for coupling a smart card to the synthesis system.

Yoon, however, discloses means for coupling a smart card to the synthesis system (Paragraphs 32-36). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to incorporate the user profile system of Yoon into the scalable media delivery system of Kalra as modified by Buxton in order to allow the system to securely store the profile on a smart card of the user, provide additional information within the profile with respect to preferences, history of usage, and authorization, and/or to ensure that the user is authorized to access content before allowing access to such content.

Regarding Claim 68,

Kalra as modified by Buxton and Yoon discloses the apparatus of claim 67, in addition, Kalra discloses that the data profile to be used to determine a quantity of complementary information to be received by the apparatus (Abstract; and Column 3, line 66 to Column 4, line 59); and Yoon discloses that smart card is configured with a data profile (Paragraphs 32-36).

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JEFFREY D. POPHAM whose telephone number is (571)272-7215. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Emmanuel Moise can be reached on (571)272-3865. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Jeffrey D Popham  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2437

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/Jeffrey D Popham/  
Examiner, Art Unit 2437